

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /086 W
-----009275 230316Z /65

R 230020Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4410
INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
ALL USCONS MEXICO BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 14001

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, BH, GT, MX
SUBJECT: GOM POSITION ON BELIZE

REF: MEXICO 11742 (NOTAL)

1. PRIME MINISTER PRICE QUIETLY VISITED MEXICO ON AUGUST
15-16 TO FULFILL A PROMISE TO FONSEC ROEL TO BRIEF
MEXICO ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND ALSO TO THANK MEXICO FOR
ITS SUPPORT IN THE BOGOTA COMMUNIQUE. ACCORDING TO THE
BRITISH EMBASSY, WHICH PROVIDED THE COURTESIES TO PRICE
FOR THE VISIT, THE BELIZEAN CHIEF IS EXTREMELY PLEASED
WITH BOGOTA COMMUNIQUE AND MEXICO'S SIGNATURE
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WHICH HE VIEWS AS A POSITIVE EVOLUTION IN MEXICO'S POLICY.
IN FACT, AS REPORTED REFTTEL, BRITISH EMBASSY BELIEVES
THAT MEXICO, AT LEAST RECENTLY IN STATEMENTS BY FONSEC
ROEL, HAS BASICALLY SUPPORTED THE CONCEPT OF TERRITORIAL
INTEGRITY FOR BELIZE. BRITISH EMBASSY FEELS THAT PRICE
HAS EVEN MORE REASON TO BE OPTIMISTIC NOW THAT MEXICO HAS
PUT ITS PUBLIC SIGNATURE TO A DOCUMENT SUPPORTING THAT

CONCEPT. THE BRITISH ALSO REPORT THAT THEIR INFORMATION SHOWS THAT FONSEC ROEL PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN BOGOTA IN THE WORDING OF THE BELIZEAN PORTION OF THE COMMUNIQUE.

2. IN SEPARATE COMMENTS TO CHARGE, UNDERSECRETARY ROSENZWEIG-DIAZ INDICATED THAT THE GOM TRIED TO TEMPER PRICE'S OPTIMISM AND IMPLANT WITH HIM THE IDEA THAT, GIVEN THE STRENGTH OF GUATEMALAN FEELING ON BELIZE AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT MIGHT TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION IF ITS DESIRE FOR A SOLUTION WERE FRUSTRATED, PRICE SHOULD NOT CONCLUDE THAT THERE WAS NOW NO DANGER IN THE SITUATION.

3. THE PUBLIC STATEMENT ON "TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY" TO WHICH MEXICO SUBSCRIBED AT BOGOTA DOES NOT MEAN HOWEVER THAT MEXICO HAS RULED OUT ANY THOUGHT OF A BELIZEAN TERRITORIAL CONCESSION TO GUATEMALA OR ABANDONMENT AT THIS STAGE OF ITS OWN CLAIM. IF A SETTLEMENT IS REACHED THAT INVOLVES A CONCESSION, MEXICO MAY HAVE TO DEAL WITH ITS HISTORICAL CLAIM, ALTHOUGH IT CLEARLY IS NOT SEEKING ANY BELIZEAN TERRITORY. DURING LUNCH WITH EMBOFFS AUGUST 17, FONSEC DIRECTOR-IN-CHIEF FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS SERGIO GONZALEZ GALVEZ OFFERED HIS PERSONAL OPINION ON HOW THE MEXICAN CLAIM COULD BE RESOLVED. IN HIS OPINION, IF BELIZE EVENTUALLY OBTAINED ITS INDEPENDENCE AND SUBSEQUENTLY EXERCISED ITS RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION TO AGREE TO SOME KIND OF TERRITORIAL SETTLEMENT WITH GUATEMALA, MEXICO WOULD

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NOT PRESS ITS CLAIM. ONLY IF GUATEMALA WERE TO RESORT TO MILITARY ACTION IN SUPPORT OF ITS CLAIM WOULD MEXICO PRESS ITS TERRITORIAL CLAIM. IN OTHER WORDS, MEXICO'S CLAIM FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES WOULD ONLY BE ADVANCED OR ACTIVATED IF THERE WERE EITHER A THREAT OF GUATEMALAN UNILATERAL MILITARY ACTION WHICH COULD HARM THE PEACE OF THE REGION, OR SUCH ACTION IN FACT. COMMENT: IF THE GUATEMALANS ACTUALLY TOOK MILITARY ACTION, WE CANNOT SEE THAT THE MEXICAN CLAIM WOULD DO MUCH TO PROMOTE A SOLUTION. IT WOULD MORE LIKELY BE A DETERRENT. WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT GONZALEZ GALVEZ WAS GIVING A PERSONAL VIEW, NOT ENUNCIATING A GOM POLICY. AS OF NOW, SECRETARY ROEL IS THE BELIZEAN DESK OFFICER, CONSULTING DIRECTLY WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO. END COMMENT. THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MEXICO14001
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770303-0658
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770834/aaaabbze.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: edf86856-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MEXICO 11742
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1517911
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOM POSITION ON BELIZE
TAGS: PBOR, PDEV, BH, GT, MX
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/edf86856-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009